



# Heat-related precautions

## ADVISORY

TO: Licensed Medical Facilities

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PURPOSE: Information and Recommendations Relating to Heat/Drought  
Conditions in Texas

### Hospitals

- Verify status of emergency potable water facilities in hospitals. Capacity should not be less than 500 gallons or 12 gallons per patient bed, whichever is greater.
- Establish a list of nearby medical facilities with cooling systems connected to the emergency electrical system. Maintain list and possible agreements with other facilities in case of power failure in normal systems.
- Review letters of agreement with emergency providers concerning disruption of normal services including electricity, water and fuel for emergency power.

### Hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers

- Verify readiness of emergency electrical supply in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. Stored fuel capacity should be sufficient to permit continuous operation of the generator(s) for a minimum of 24 hours in hospitals and 4 hours in ambulatory surgery centers.

### All facilities

- Evaluate feasibility of connecting cooling systems to the emergency electrical system.
- Consider possibility of using portable cooling units on an as-needed basis in case of failure or inadequacy of normal cooling systems.
- Evaluate the electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems of the facility to ensure that all elements are in good repair and maintained to assume patient safety and comfort.